

You wouldn't want me to tell how you stood on the floor,  
Nor how some got a hair pulling, or something more!

Now the pupils have grown and scattered, living far  
and near,  
They have families, while others have followed a career.

There are farmers, teachers, politicians and housewives  
too,  
Some traveled to town or city to find something to do;

And so they have made their mark in office or factory.  
A number have "Gone On," and we cherish their memory.

The teacher hasn't changed much, although her hair is  
gray;  
She has the same cheery smile, with the same pleasing  
way.

To honor that teacher is the reason we are here.  
Miss Giles is now Mrs. Foster, whom we hold quite dear

So to our former teacher, before we depart;  
We want to leave a remembrance; a symbol of a heart.

The Curtis Valley School, of nearly half a century ago;  
Its pupils have recalled their school days, and want  
you to know

Our Best Wishes are with you, as you travel on your way;  
Hoping that we will again meet, on some future day.

May 31, 1951. Written by Verna (Curtis) Varcoe.

In presenting the heart made of coal with a "coal  
diamond" in the center to Grace (Giles) Foster, I used  
the following:

To Grace Giles Foster:

This heart is made of coal found under Pennsyl-  
vania soil;  
It was mined, ground and polished requiring  
many to toil.  
The center is "a diamond of the coal mines"  
they say.  
It is from former pupils on this thirty-first  
of May.

Curtis Valley School 1951. V. C. V.

When I attended school at Curtis Valley, the term  
was seven months. (One summer, and perhaps more, we had  
school for a few weeks taught by Aunt Augusta Gertrude  
Curtis, 06-01-1862--07-13-1956, who was on furlough  
from Missionary work.) What I remember most of her  
teaching is her reciting poems with eloquence and  
having us memorize scripture. This may be one reason  
why I like poems, and have collected and written some.

The school building still stands, but has been made  
into a dwelling. In September 1955, I was notified to  
have the Sunday school vacate the school building. A  
new building was built across the road. From 1955 on,  
I have quite a complete record of the Curtis Valley  
Sunday school, including pictures that were taken as  
the new building was being built. I also have a snap  
shot of my first Sunday School class in front of the old  
school house, but it doesn't show all of the building.  
At that time the school was called a Common School--  
now Elementary.

Inside the old school building was a hall the entire  
length of the front, with doors at each end to enter  
the one room. We left our wraps on nails in the hall.  
The boys wore caps. Our dinner pails were left on the  
floor in the hall. In the winter we brought them in-  
side, so they wouldn't freeze. On a bench in the north  
corner of the hall was a pail of good spring water,  
with only one dipper for all to use. Later there was

a water cooler with faucet at bottom. Violet, my  
daughter, said these were purchased when she went to  
the school--starting in 1928. Also individual drink-  
ing cups hung on the wall with their number above. Miss  
Harriet Grunski was a teacher at Curtis Valley School  
during the time Violet went there to school. She taught  
at Browndale for a number of years and then at Alden-  
ville (two-room school; my other daughter, Eunice,  
taught in the other room) before retiring. Miss Grunski  
made a career of teaching. She now lives next to the  
Moosic Grange Hall. Back to my school days--the boys  
would usually carry the water up to the school from the  
corner, i.e., the Curtis Homestead.

The teacher opened the school with singing. Next  
there was a reading from the Bible, after which all  
repeated the Lord's Prayer. On the walls hung a large  
heavy paper with the Ten Commandments on it; also pic-  
ture of George Washington and other historic pictures  
and scenes. Slate blackboards were across the front,  
with one large one between the windows in back. On  
the north side was what looked like a painted black-  
board. In the northeast corner was a cupboard, where  
books and supplies were kept. Next to the cupboard,  
on the north, was a large dictionary. A large scroll  
of maps, used in teaching, was near by. Later a clock  
hung on the wall above the dictionary, and a large  
globe was purchased with money made from socials. The  
stove was located in the northwest side of the room.  
There was a large metal shield around the stove. We  
would sometimes gather around this to get warm. The  
pupils' desks and seats were double, with higher ones  
in the back of the room for larger pupils, while ones  
in front were lower for small pupils. As pupils could  
choose their seats, some came early the first day to  
get the one they wanted. The teacher's desk was up  
front, in the western part of the room. Among books,  
and other things on her desk, was a small desk bell to  
call up the class to recite. The pupils would then be  
seated on a long recitation bench in front of the  
teacher. This bench is now in the new Curtis Valley Sun-  
day School building. One teacher taught all eight grades.  
When one class was up to recite, the other pupils in  
the room would sometimes listen to them instead of  
studying their own lessons. On Friday afternoon, we  
had Art and sometimes a spelling bee.

I have several of my report cards. When I was in  
the first grade, 1905-1906, my teacher at the Curtis  
Valley School was Mrs. E. B. Olver. We were taught,  
and given numerical grades for, the following subjects:  
Reading, Spelling, Writing, Phys. and Hygiene, and  
Arithmetic. Alphabetical grades were given for Appli-  
cation, Behavior, Punctuality, Politeness, Neatness,  
Care of Books. In second grade, 1906-1907, my teacher  
was Grace A. Giles. We were taught, and given numeri-  
cal grades for, the following subjects: Reading,  
Spelling, Writing, Language or Gram., Phys. and Hygiene,  
Arithmetic. As in first grade, we were graded for  
Application, Behavior, Punctuality, Politeness, Neat-  
ness, Care of Books. In third grade, 1907-1908, my  
teacher was Warren P. Norton, who taught us the follow-  
ing subjects: Reading, Spelling, Writing, Language,  
Phys. and Hygiene, Arithmetic, U. S. History and Geog-  
raphy. Alphabetical grades were given for Neatness,  
Behavior, and Politeness. In the sixth grade, 1910-  
1911, Miss Edna P. Hauenstein taught us all of

the following subjects: Reading, Spelling, Writing,  
Drawing, Language or Grammar, Physiology and Hygiene,  
Arithmetic, Geography, History. We were also graded  
for Effort and Deportment. Our grades in the sixth  
grade were all numerical. In the seventh grade, 1911-  
1912, we were taught the same subjects that we were  
taught in the sixth grade. We were also graded for  
Effort and Deportment. After receiving our report  
cards, we would always compare our marks to see who  
ranked the highest.

In the Curtis Valley School, as in other one-room  
schools, the teacher was her own janitor: sweeping the  
floor, cleaning blackboards (sometimes the pupils helped  
in this), building the fire when needed. In the winter